STEVE ROGERS CAPTAIN AMERICA 6

Super-Soldier. Avenger. Agent of Hydra. He is...

Steve Rogers
CAPTAIN AMERICA

Steve Rogers' reality has been secretly rewritten by Kobik, a sentient Cosmic Cube acting under the influence of the Red Skull. In Steve's new history, a Hydra agent named Elisa Sinclair saw Steve's potential and took him away from his mother to put him in a school that trained Hydra soldiers.

Captain America is now determined to save the world by expanding Hydra's influence, but a major obstacle has appeared in his way: a new Inhuman who can see the future threatens to expose Steve's secret at any moment, and has predicted Steve's death at the hands of the younger Spider-Man, Miles Morales.

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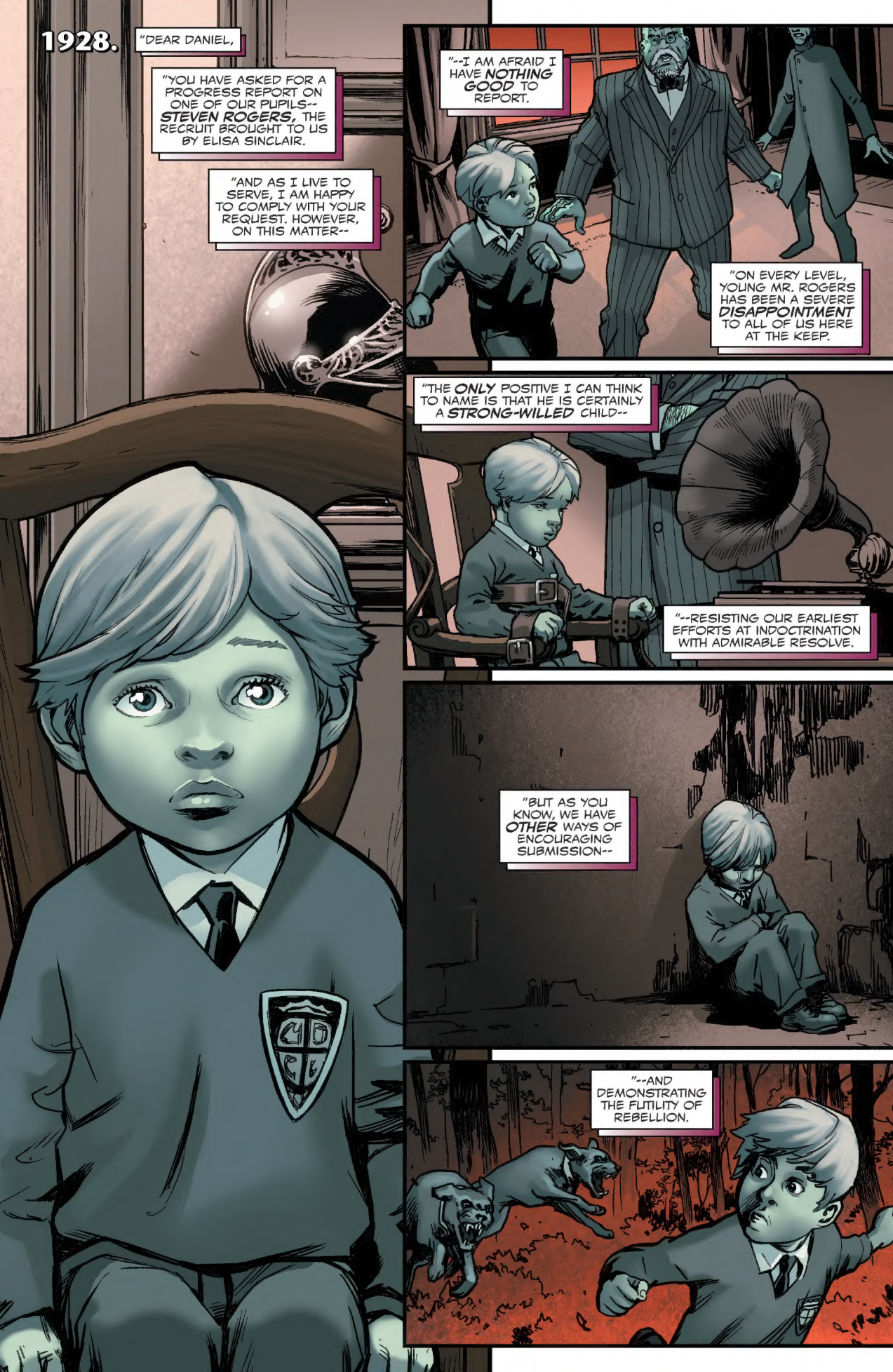
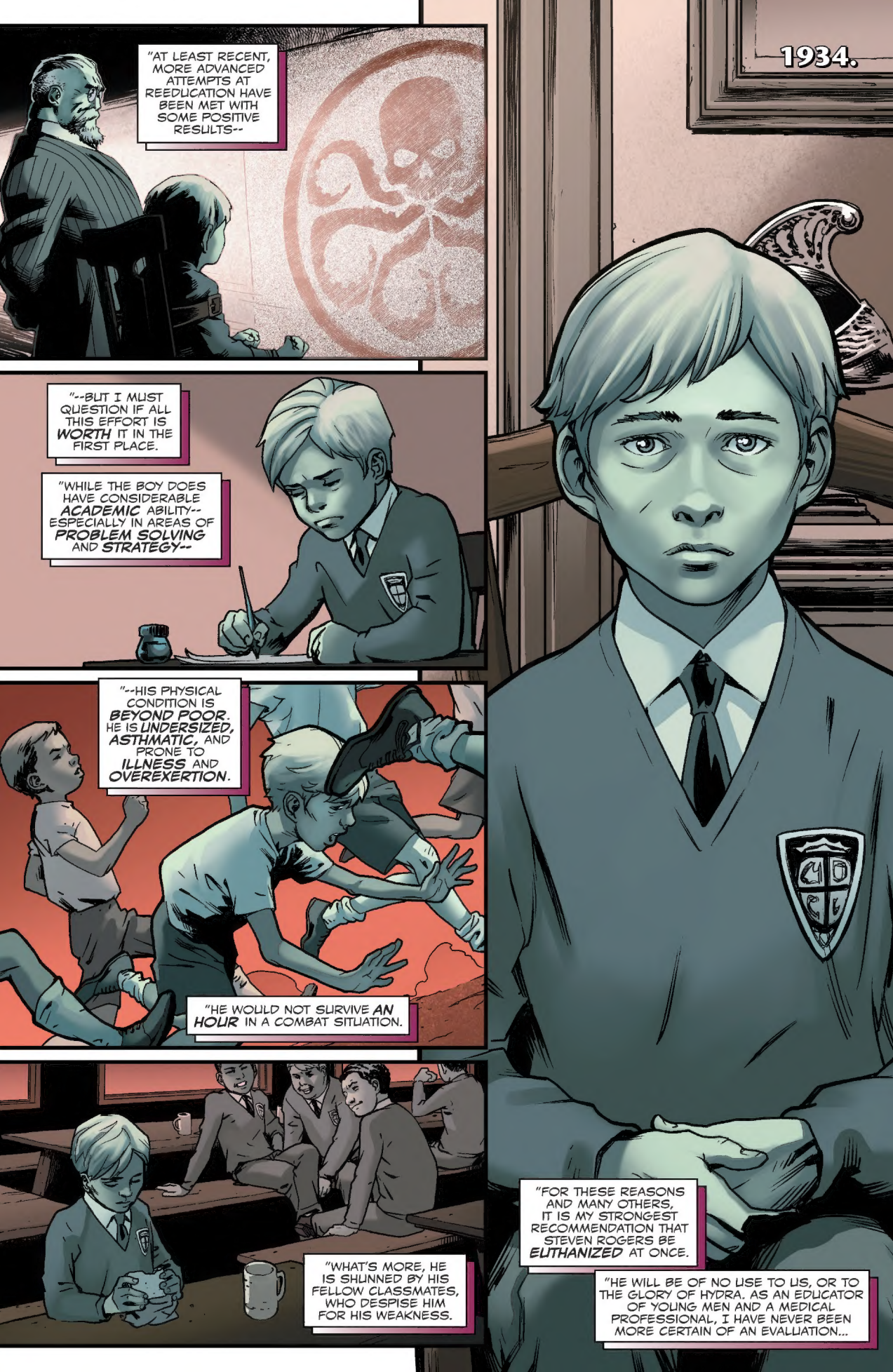
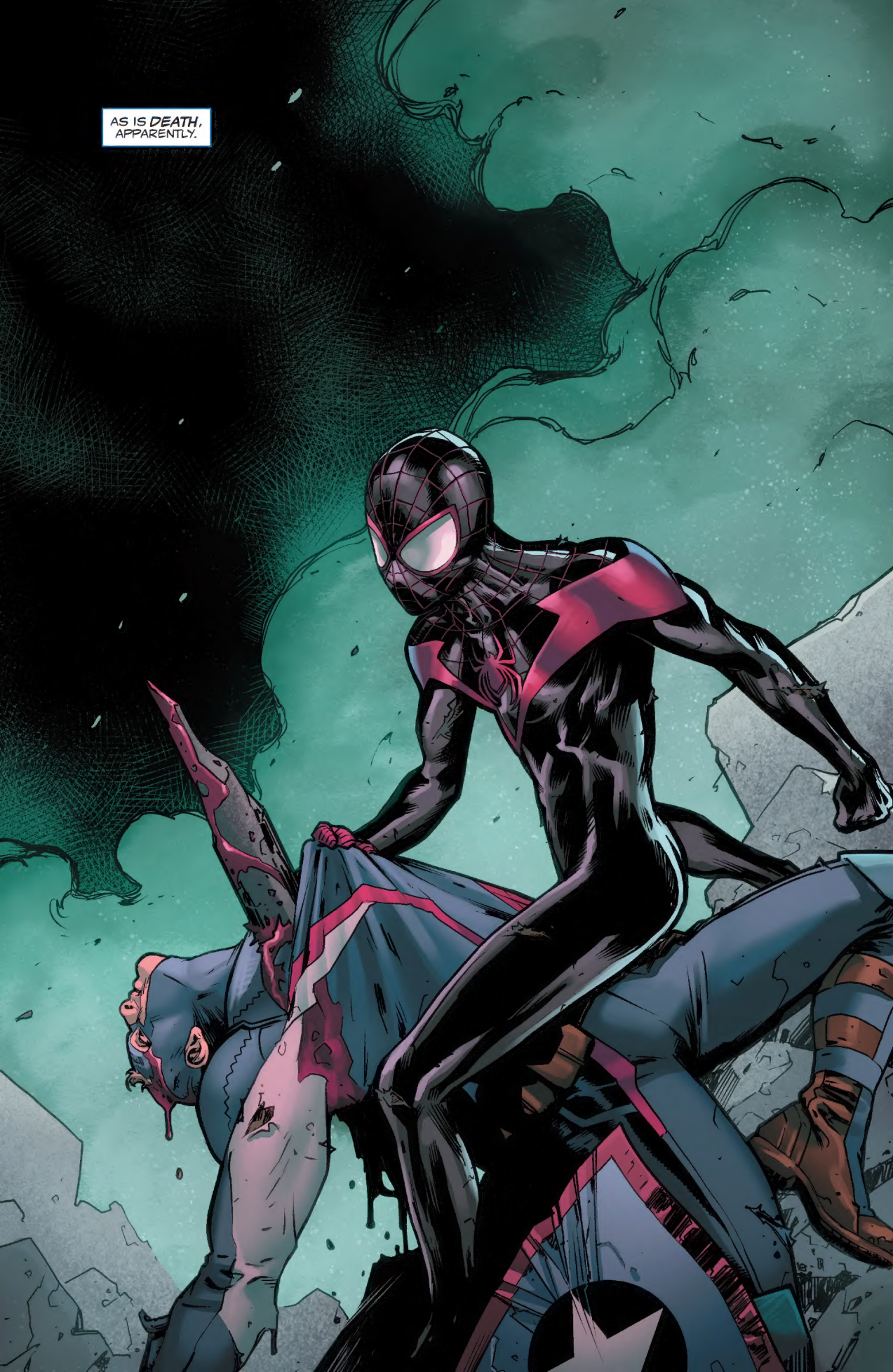

1928.
"DEAR DANIEL,
"YOU HAVE ASKED FOR A PROGRESS REPORT ON ONE OF OUR PUPILS-- STEVEN ROGERS, THE RECRUIT BROUGHT TO US BY ELISA SINCLAIR.
"AND AS I LIVE TO SERVE, I AM HAPPY TO COMPLY WITH YOUR REQUEST. HOWEVER, ON THIS MATTER--
"--I AM AFRAID I HAVE NOTHING GOOD TO REPORT.
"ON EVERY LEVEL, YOUNG MR. ROGERS HAS BEEN A SEVERE DISAPPOINTMENT TO ALL OF US HERE AT THE KEEP.
"THE ONLY POSITIVE I CAN THINK TO NAME IS THAT HE IS CERTAINLY A STRONG-WILLED CHILD--
"--RESISTING OUR EARLIEST EFFORTS AT INDOCTRINATION WITH ADMIRABLE RESOLVE.
"BUT AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE OTHER WAYS OF ENCOURAGING SUBMISSION--
"--AND DEMONSTRATING THE FUTILITY OF REBELLION.


"AT LEAST RECENT, MORE ADVANCED ATTEMPTS AT REEDUCATION HAVE BEEN MET WITH SOME POSITIVE RESULTS--
"--BUT I MUST QUESTION IF ALL THIS EFFORT IS WORTH IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
"WHILE THE BOY DOES HAVE CONSIDERABLE ACADEMIC ABILITY-- ESPECIALLY IN AREAS OF PROBLEM SOLVING AND STRATEGY--
"--HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION IS BEYOND POOR. HE IS UNDERSIZED, ASTHMATIC, AND PRONE TO ILLNESS AND OVEREXERTION.
"HE WOULD NOT SURVIVE AN HOUR IN A COMBAT SITUATION.
"WHAT'S MORE, HE IS SHUNNED BY HIS FELLOW CLASSMATES, WHO DESPISE HIM FOR HIS WEAKNESS.
1934.
"FOR THESE REASONS AND MANY OTHERS, IT IS MY STRONGEST RECOMMENDATION THAT STEVEN ROGERS BE EUTHANIZED AT ONCE.
"HE WILL BE OF NO USE TO US, OR TO THE GLORY OF HYDRA. AS AN EDUCATOR OF YOUNG MEN AND A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL, I HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE CERTAIN OF AN EVALUATION...

"...STEVEN ROGERS WILL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD."
WE ALL HAVE OUR DESTINIES.
THE TRISKELION. TODAY.
OUR PARTS TO PLAY IN THE GRAND DESIGN.
WE DON'T GET TO CHOOSE OUR FATES--
--AND WE CAN NEVER ESCAPE THEM.
THIS IS WHAT I HAVE TO TELL MYSELF NOW.
YOU SEE, I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT MY DESTINY WAS--BUT LIFE IS FULL OF SURPRISES.


AS IS DEATH, APPARENTLY.

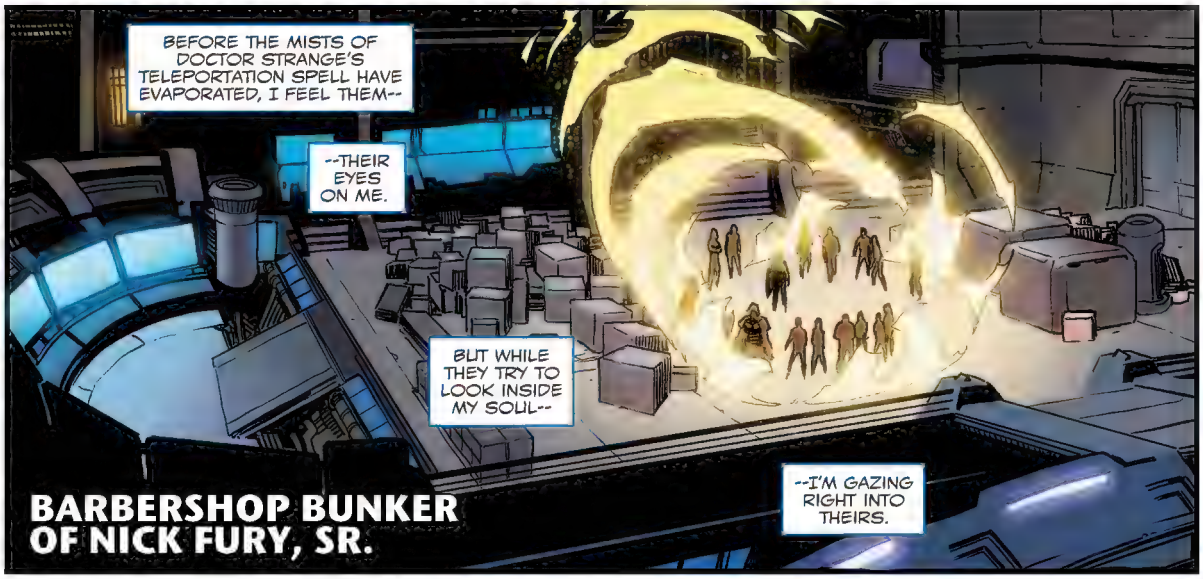
SO THIS IS WHERE WE ARE--
YOU'RE TURNING ON CHILDREN NOW.
NO. NOT TURNING--
LET HIM DECIDE WHAT HE WANTS TO DO.
I AGREE. I AM.
--AND THIS IS WHAT THEY'LL DO.
THIS IS ALL THEY'LL DO.
STOP TRYING TO DEMONIZE ME FOR BEING PROACTIVE--
WOW! YOU STILL DON'T GET IT.
THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH YOU!
BICKER AND ARGUE AND FIGHT UNTIL EVEN MORE DIE.
UNLESS YOU STOP IT--
--UNLESS YOU TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR OWN DESTINY.
MAY I?

HI.
HI.
WHY DID YOU PULL YOUR MASK UP?
PUT IT BACK.
I-- I COULDN'T BREATHE.
THAT MASK REPRESENTS SOMETHING. IT REPRESENTS WHO YOU ARE.
YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN.
AND THAT MEANS SOMETHING TO PEOPLE.
IT MEANS A LOT.
I--I WOULD NEVER DO...WHAT THAT--THAT VISION SHOWED.
I WOULD NEVER DO IT.
I KNOW, SON.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I-- I WANT TO GO HOME.
THEN DO THAT.
WE'LL FIGURE THE REST OUT LATER.
CAPTAIN!
NO.
THIS ISN'T YOUR CALL.

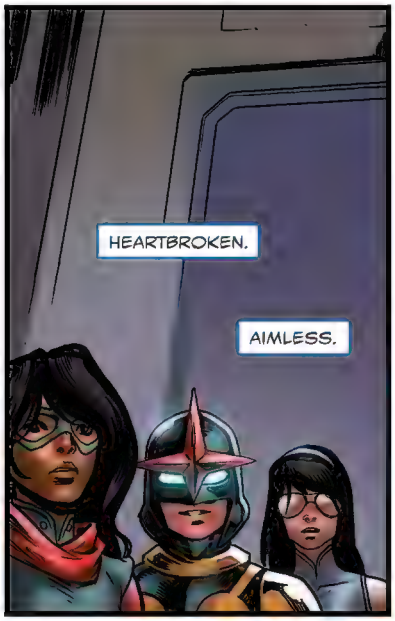
HE HAS THE RIGHT TO GO HOME IF HE WANTS TO.
BUT WE CAN KEEP HIM SAFE HERE AND MAKE SURE THAT WHAT WE--
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
JUST LIKE BRUCE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
JUST LIKE RHODEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
IT'S BORROWED TIME, OF COURSE--
--BUT THEN, I SUPPOSE EVERY MOMENT FROM NOW ON IS.
LIKE I SAID BEFORE, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE WHATEVER FATE HAS PLANNED FOR YOU.
YOU HAVE TO FIND THE STRENGTH TO EMBRACE IT, TO FACE IT HEAD-ON--

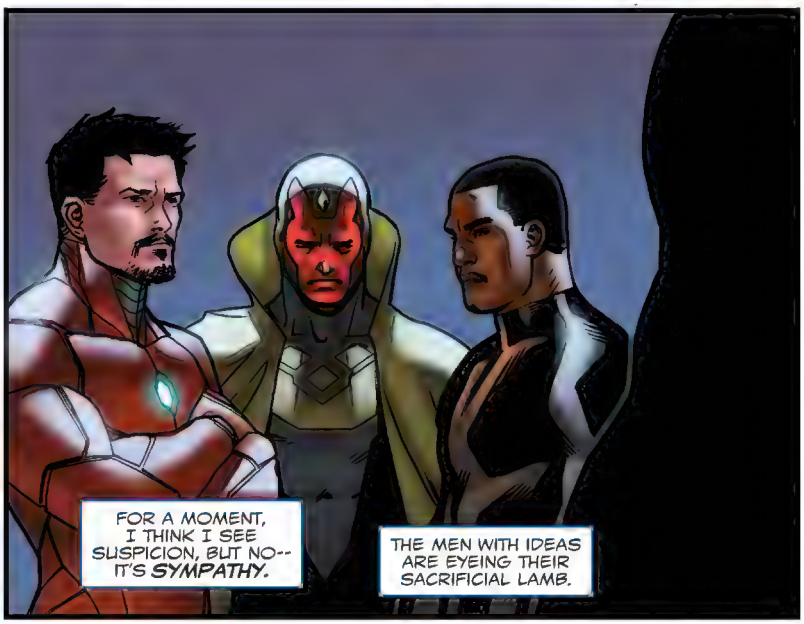
--EVEN WHEN YOU MIGHT JUST WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM IT ALL.
1934.

OOF!
EASY, CHILD--
YOU'RE MOVING A BIT TOO QUICKLY.
W-WHO ARE YOU?!
I AM THE KRAKEN. I HELP PEOPLE BECOME WHO THEY ARE MEANT TO BE.
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE MEANT TO BE, STEVEN?


BEFORE THE MISTS OF DOCTOR STRANGE'S TELEPORTATION SPELL HAVE EVAPORATED, I FEEL THEM--
--THEIR EYES ON ME.
BUT WHILE THEY TRY TO LOOK INSIDE MY SOUL--
--I'M GAZING RIGHT INTO THEIRS.
BARBERSHOP BUNKER OF NICK FURY, SR.

THESE PEOPLE ARE COMING APART AT THE SEAMS.
ANGRY.
CONFUSED.


HEARTBROKEN.
AIMLESS.


FOR A MOMENT, I THINK I SEE SUSPICION, BUT NO-- IT'S SYMPATHY.
THE MEN WITH IDEAS ARE EYEING THEIR SACRIFICIAL LAMB.

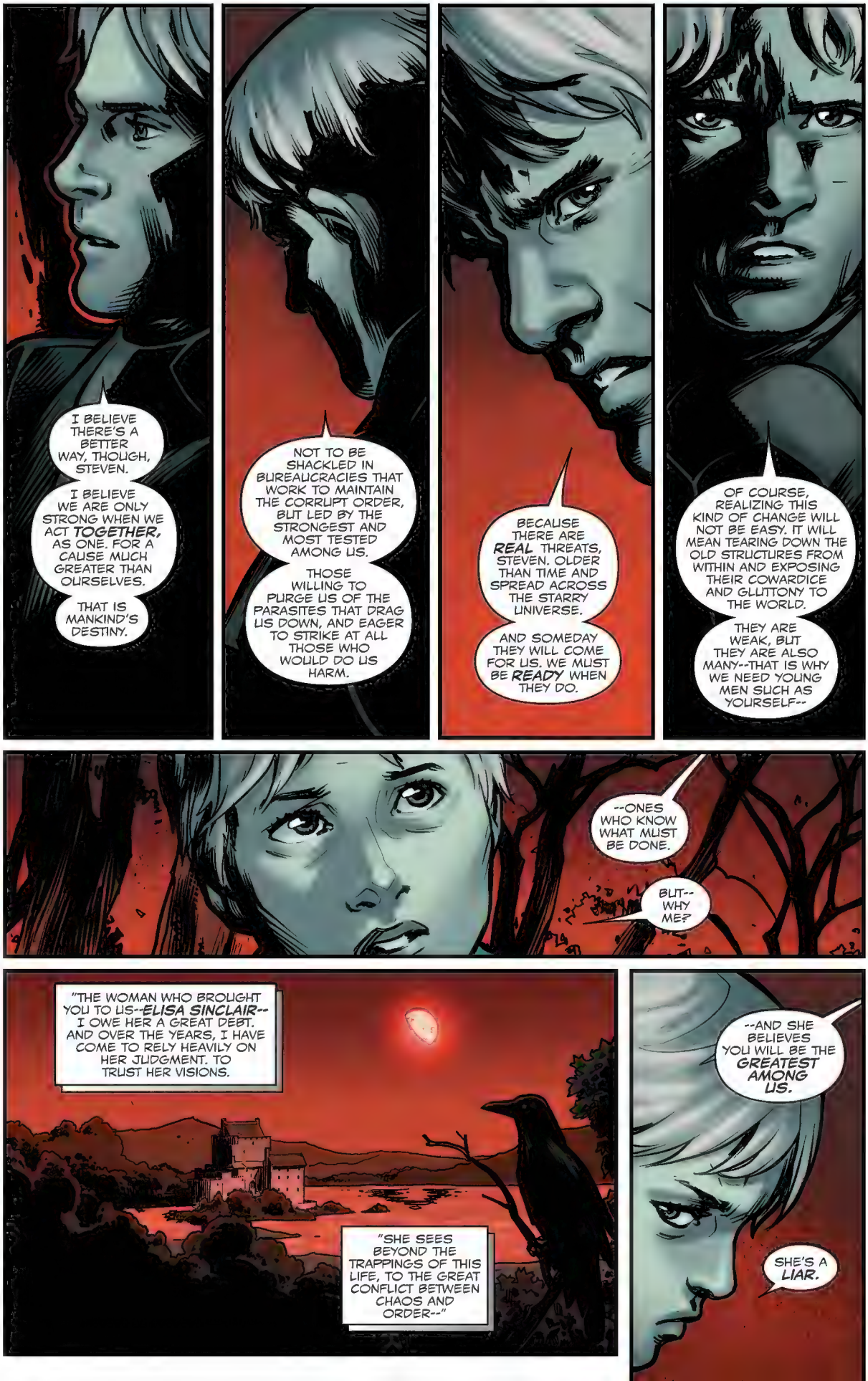
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, YOU KNOW.
I THINK I DO.
YEAH, YOU WOULD.
I DO HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU, THOUGH, TONY--
AND I BET I'M IN JUST THE EMOTIONAL STATE TO GIVE YOU A SURPRISINGLY HONEST ANSWER.
WHY NOW?
WELL, IF THE VISION IS CORRECT, WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE--EITHER WAY, WE'RE GOING TO BE IN D.C.--MIGHT AS WELL PUT IT TO THE TEST--
NO, THAT ISN'T WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. I MEAN THIS--ALL OF THIS. GOING TO WAR AGAINST CAROL.
OH, GOD--
--PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE CHANGING SIDES. BECAUSE WHEN I REALIZED WE WERE ACTUALLY GONNA BE ON THE SAME TEAM FOR ONCE, I JUST--GOOSEBUMPS, YOU KNOW? ALL OVER.
EVEN MADE A DONATION TO PUBLIC RADIO IN YOUR NAME.
MY POSITION'S NOT CHANGING. BUT SINCE YOU BROUGHT IT UP, IT'S FAIR TO MENTION YOU DON'T SOUND MUCH LIKE YOURSELF THESE DAYS.
WOULD YOU SAY MORE OR LESS PITHY?
YOU WEREN'T THIS GREAT DEFENDER OF CIVIL LIBERTIES BACK WHEN YOU WERE PUSHING THE REGISTRATION ACT ON US.
AND YOU DAMN SURE DIDN'T NEED EVERYTHING TO BE ABOVE BOARD AND PUBLIC WHEN YOU AND YOUR "ILLUMINATI" WERE TAKING THE INCURSIONS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS.
ALL OF WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION--

--WHAT'S CHANGED? I'M NOT SURPRISED WHERE I CAME DOWN ON THIS, BUT I AM SURPRISED BY WHERE YOU DID.
WELL, MAYBE I'M TRYING TO ATONE. MAYBE I'VE LEARNED FROM MY PAST EXPERIENCES AND USED THOSE LESSONS TO FOSTER PERSONAL GROWTH. DID YOU CONSIDER THAT?
YEAH, OKAY, FINE--ALSO, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, MY BEST FRIEND IS DEAD.
AND I'M VERY SORRY FOR THAT. BUT THANOS KILLED RHODEY. NOT THIS ULYSSES, NOT CAROL. BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD THE TYRANT'S NAME COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH ONCE SINCE IT HAPPENED--
I'M STARTING TO GET THE SENSE YOU'RE DRIVING US SOMEPLACE, STEVE--BUT DO YOU NEED ME TO PULL UP MAPS? BECAUSE I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE LOST HERE--
HERE'S WHAT WORRIES ME--I THINK IF YOU HAD INVENTED A MACHINE THAT DID EXACTLY WHAT THIS BOY DOES, YOU'D HAVE US MARCHING TO THE BEAT OF THAT DRUM DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
YOU'RE WRONG.
AM I? BECAUSE IF THE ISSUE HERE IS YOU JUST CAN'T STAND FACING GOD--AND BY THAT, I MEAN NOT FEELING IN CHARGE--THAT'S A PROBLEM.
IS IT?!
YES. CAN YOU AT LEAST CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT HERE, BUT FOR THE WRONG REASONS?
WHY WOULD IT EVEN MATTER?!
BECAUSE--BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE WHAT I THINK I'M SEEING.
I WAS VERY YOUNG WHEN I LOST MY FATHER. BUT YOU NEVER FORGET THE SIGNS...

CONTROL ISSUES.
TRUST ISSUES.
PARANOIA.
MANIC BEHAVIOR.
TONY, I NEED YOU TO TELL ME THE TRUTH--
--WHEN WAS YOUR LAST DRINK?
I--I CAN'T EVEN--
--WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.
TONY--
GET SOME SLEEP, CAP.
IT'S GOOD ADVICE. TOMORROW IS AN IMPORTANT DAY--
--AND THIS IS HOW I NEED YOU TO BE, TONY.
OFF-BALANCE. QUESTIONING YOURSELF--

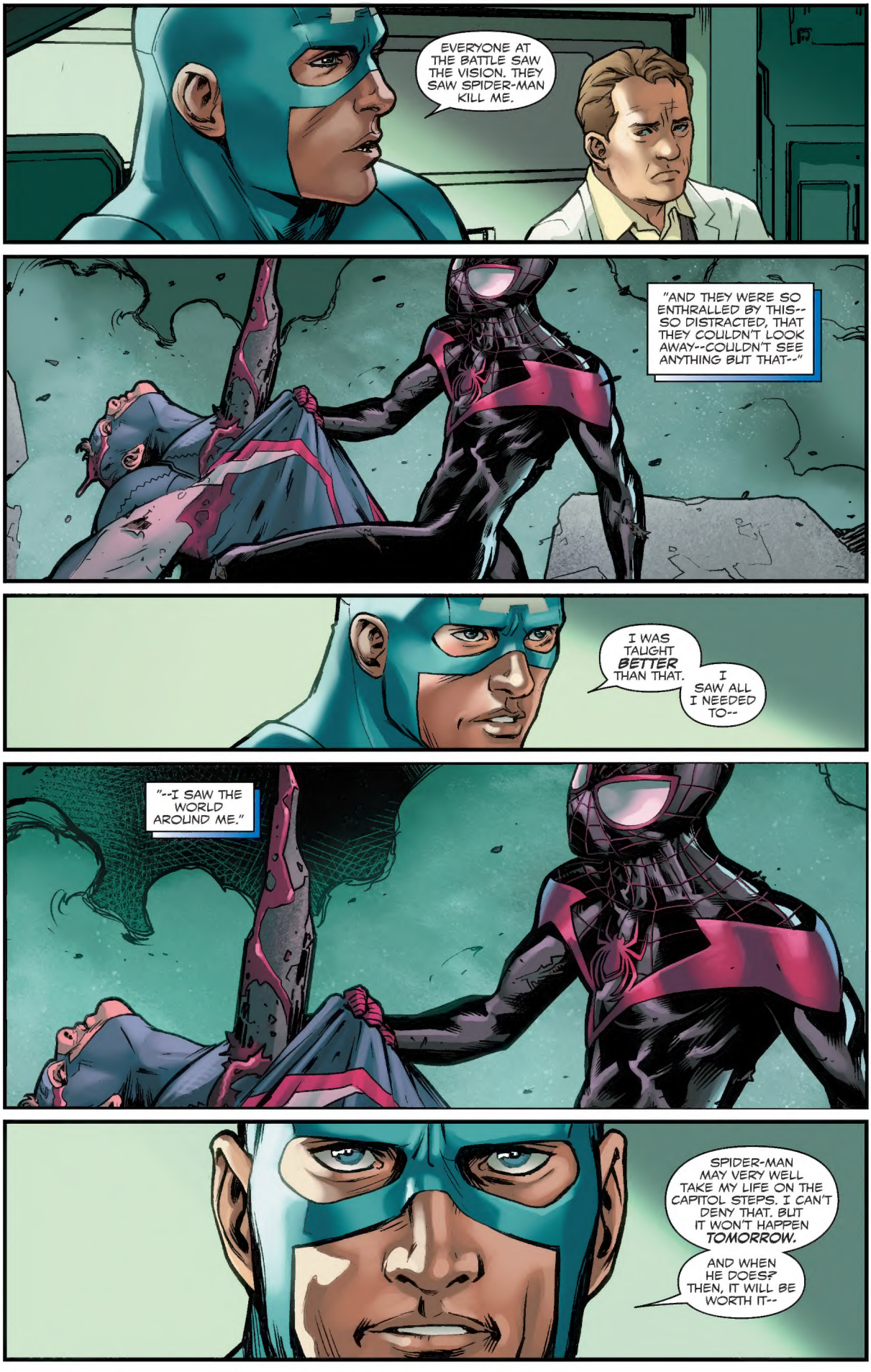
YOU DO HAVE A WAR TO LOSE, AFTER ALL.
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.
WHAT I DON'T GET IS-- WHY DON'T THEY JUST WATCH MINORITY REPORT? GOTTA HAVE SOME SOLID TIPS FOR HANDLING THIS KIND OF THING.
RICK--
--MAYBE YOU COULD CONTINUE YOUR CONVERSATION AFTER YOU'VE FOUND THE PERSON WHO WILL MOST LIKELY KILL CAPTAIN AMERICA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
I'M WORKING ON IT--CCTV, TRANSIT RECORDS-- HE CAN'T TELEPORT, CAN HE? BECAUSE THEN MY HANDS ARE TIED--
THEN CHEW THROUGH THE ROPE. STEVE IS WHAT'S KEEPING YOU OUT OF A PRISON CELL, REMEMBER?
WOW, ADMIRABLE ZEAL, COMMANDER CARTER--WHO SAYS MODERATES DON'T KNOW HOW TO PARTY?
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED, HILL. THIS DOESN'T MEAN I'M ON BOARD WITH YOUR LITTLE "PREDICTIVE JUSTICE" CRUSADE--
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE JUST MAKING AN EXCEPTION BECAUSE THIS TIME IT PERSONALLY AFFECTS YOU.
BUT HEY, NO WORRIES, SO LONG AS YOU KEEP SIGNING THE PERMISSION SLIPS FOR MY FIELD TRIPS.
I'M DEALING WITH DOMINOS FALLING BECAUSE YOU TIPPED THEM OVER, MARIA. AGAIN. IT'S THIS KIND OF OVERREACH--
OVERREACH? MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING, BUT WE'RE PITCHING A PERFECT GAME RIGHT NOW. DON'T QUESTION IT--
BUT SERIOUSLY-- NO ONE HERE HAS SEEN MINORITY REPORT?
RICK!
ALSO I MAYBE GOT SOMETHING...
IT'S...AN ANONYMOUS TIP? DEEP NET POSTING, DROPPED WHERE THEY'D KNOW I'D FIND IT. GOT SPIDER-MAN'S EXACT GPS COORDINATES AND PHOTO EVIDENCE TO BACK IT. HE'S--
--WELL, HE'S IN THE FIRST PLACE WE SHOULD'VE LOOKED.
EXCELLENT. I'LL GO INFORM CAPTAIN MARVEL AND THE OTHERS.
"DO NOT MAKE ME LOOK BAD IN FRONT OF THE SUPER HEROES."

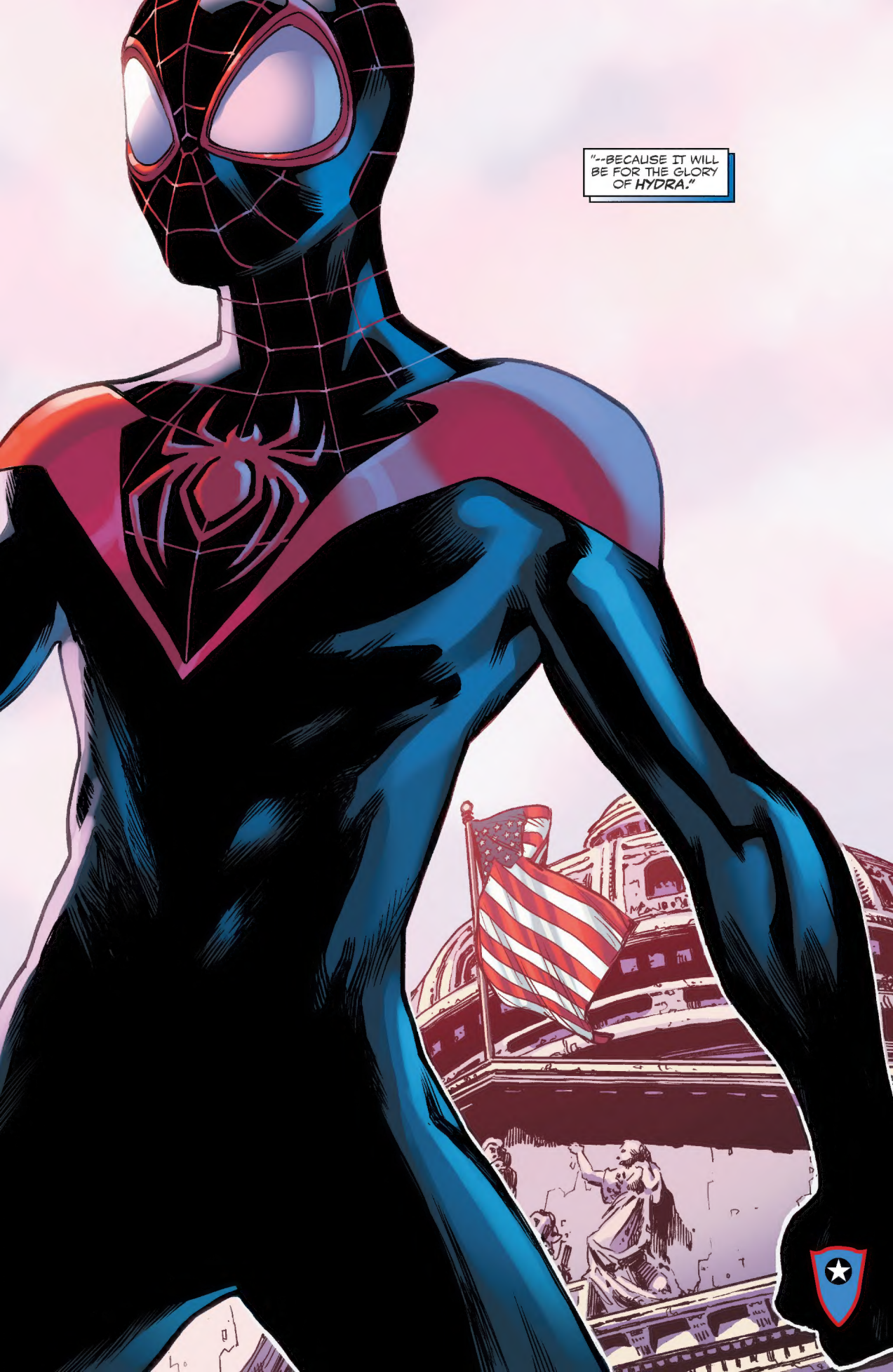
1934.
I WAS-- I WAS JUST--
YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO RUN AWAY. LIKE YOU HAVE A NUMBER OF TIMES BEFORE.
I--I'M SORRY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE. I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO ESCAPE SO BADLY.
...YOU DO?
OF COURSE. IT'S AN INSTINCT-- NOT A NATURAL ONE, MIND YOU--BUT ONE INFUSED IN YOU SO STRONGLY IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGHT.
THE DESIRE TO BE FREE.
THE COUNTRY YOU'RE FROM, THEY INDOCTRINATE YOU AT A VERY YOUNG AGE. PRATTLE ON ABOUT INDIVIDUALISM, COUCH IT IN FLOWERY WORDS LIKE "LIBERTY" AND "INDEPENDENCE."
BUT WHAT IT REALLY MEANS IS ISOLATION. MAN BECOMES ADRIFT AND ALONE.
WHICH IN TURN LEADS TO FEAR, AND THEN TO GREED AND VIOLENCE IN RESPONSE TO THOSE FEARS. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THE ENTIRE SYSTEM IS CORRUPTED. THEN AGAIN, I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU...
YOU SAW IT ALL FOR YOURSELF AS A YOUNG BOY. THE POVERTY AND THE DISEASE OF THOSE SLUMS.
HOW THEY KEEP THE MASSES IN LINE BY SELLING THEM UNATTAINABLE DREAMS OF A BETTER LIFE. MEN WITH NOTHING, BREAKING THEIR BACKS TO BUILD GLEAMING TOWERS FOR MEN WITH EVERYTHING, AND BELIEVING THAT TO BE RIGHT AND FAIR AND GOOD.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT LIE DOES TO THEM--
--WHAT IT DID TO MEN LIKE YOUR FATHER.


I BELIEVE THERE'S A BETTER WAY, THOUGH, STEVEN.
I BELIEVE WE ARE ONLY STRONG WHEN WE ACT TOGETHER, AS ONE. FOR A CAUSE MUCH GREATER THAN OURSELVES.
THAT IS MANKIND'S DESTINY.
NOT TO BE SHACKLED IN BUREAUCRACIES THAT WORK TO MAINTAIN THE CORRUPT ORDER, BUT LED BY THE STRONGEST AND MOST TESTED AMONG US.
THOSE WILLING TO PURGE US OF THE PARASITES THAT DRAG US DOWN, AND EAGER TO STRIKE AT ALL THOSE WHO WOULD DO US HARM.
BECAUSE THERE ARE REAL THREATS, STEVEN. OLDER THAN TIME AND SPREAD ACROSS THE STARRY UNIVERSE.
AND SOMEDAY THEY WILL COME FOR US. WE MUST BE READY WHEN THEY DO.
OF COURSE, REALIZING THIS KIND OF CHANGE WILL NOT BE EASY. IT WILL MEAN TEARING DOWN THE OLD STRUCTURES FROM WITHIN AND EXPOSING THEIR COWARDICE AND GLUTTONY TO THE WORLD.
THEY ARE WEAK, BUT THEY ARE ALSO MANY--THAT IS WHY WE NEED YOUNG MEN SUCH AS YOURSELF--
--ONES WHO KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE.
BUT-- WHY ME?
"THE WOMAN WHO BROUGHT YOU TO US--ELISA SINCLAIR-- I OWE HER A GREAT DEBT. AND OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE COME TO RELY HEAVILY ON HER JUDGMENT. TO TRUST HER VISIONS.
"SHE SEES BEYOND THE TRAPPINGS OF THIS LIFE, TO THE GREAT CONFLICT BETWEEN CHAOS AND ORDER--"
--AND SHE BELIEVES YOU WILL BE THE GREATEST AMONG US.
SHE'S A LIAR.

WHAT'S THAT, BOY?
I SAID SHE'S A LIAR! SHE DID SOMETHING--TO MY MOTHER--
I--I CAN'T REMEMBER...
BUT ELISA SAID MY MOTHER WOULD COME BACK! AND SHE NEVER DID.
HH.
YOU ASSUME TOO MUCH, STEVEN. SHE HASN'T COME BACK YET. IN A WAR THAT HAS LASTED MILLENNIA, HER ABSENCE IS BUT THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
AND IF SHE WERE HERE, SHE WOULD TELL YOU THAT FAITH IS WHAT ENABLED US TO PERSEVERE ALL THOSE YEARS.
IF ELISA MADE YOU A PROMISE, SHE WILL KEEP IT. OF THAT YOU CAN BE ASSURED. ASSUMING YOU CAN BE PATIENT.
SO I'LL OFFER YOU A CHOICE NOW--YOU CAN RUN AWAY FROM ALL THIS, FROM YOUR OWN DESTINY--
--OR YOU CAN COME BACK WITH ME. YOU CAN PROVE FENHOFF AND THE OTHERS WRONG, BECOME THE GREAT LEADER YOU ARE MEANT TO BE.
AND THEN MORE IMPORTANTLY--YOU AND I, STEVEN--
TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE THIS WORLD.

WE HAVE TO KILL HIM.
SELVIG--
IT'S OUR ONLY OPTION! AND YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T GO WITH STARK--YOU'LL ONLY HELP THE VISION COME TRUE. SURELY YOU CAN SEE THAT--
I'M GOING.
BUT-- IT'S A SUICIDE MISSION!
UNLESS-- UNLESS WE CAN GET TO HIM FIRST. YES, THAT COULD WORK--AND IF WE DID IT WHILE YOU WERE WITH THE OTHERS, IT WOULD ABSOLVE YOU. NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT--
NO, THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEANT--LISTEN TO ME--
--I AM GOING WITH STARK AND THE OTHERS TO WASHINGTON.
AND WE WILL TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST SPIDER-MAN.
IN FACT, WE WILL DO EVERY-THING IN OUR POWER TO KEEP HIM SAFE AND UNHARMED.
I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND.


EVERYONE AT THE BATTLE SAW THE VISION. THEY SAW SPIDER-MAN KILL ME.
"AND THEY WERE SO ENTHRALLED BY THIS--SO DISTRACTED, THAT THEY COULDN'T LOOK AWAY--COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING BUT THAT--"
I WAS TAUGHT BETTER THAN THAT.
I SAW ALL I NEEDED TO--
"--I SAW THE WORLD AROUND ME."
SPIDER-MAN MAY VERY WELL TAKE MY LIFE ON THE CAPITOL STEPS. I CAN'T DENY THAT. BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN TOMORROW.
AND WHEN HE DOES? THEN, IT WILL BE WORTH IT--


"--BECAUSE IT WILL BE FOR THE GLORY OF HYDRA."

NEXT